

	United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Fuels Reduction Success Story</h2>	KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 841-6131 www.fs.usda.gov/klamath	
Date: September 8, 2010	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Dutch Creek Fire</h2>	Contact: Tom Lavagnino (530) 841-4485 tlavagnino@fs.fed.us		

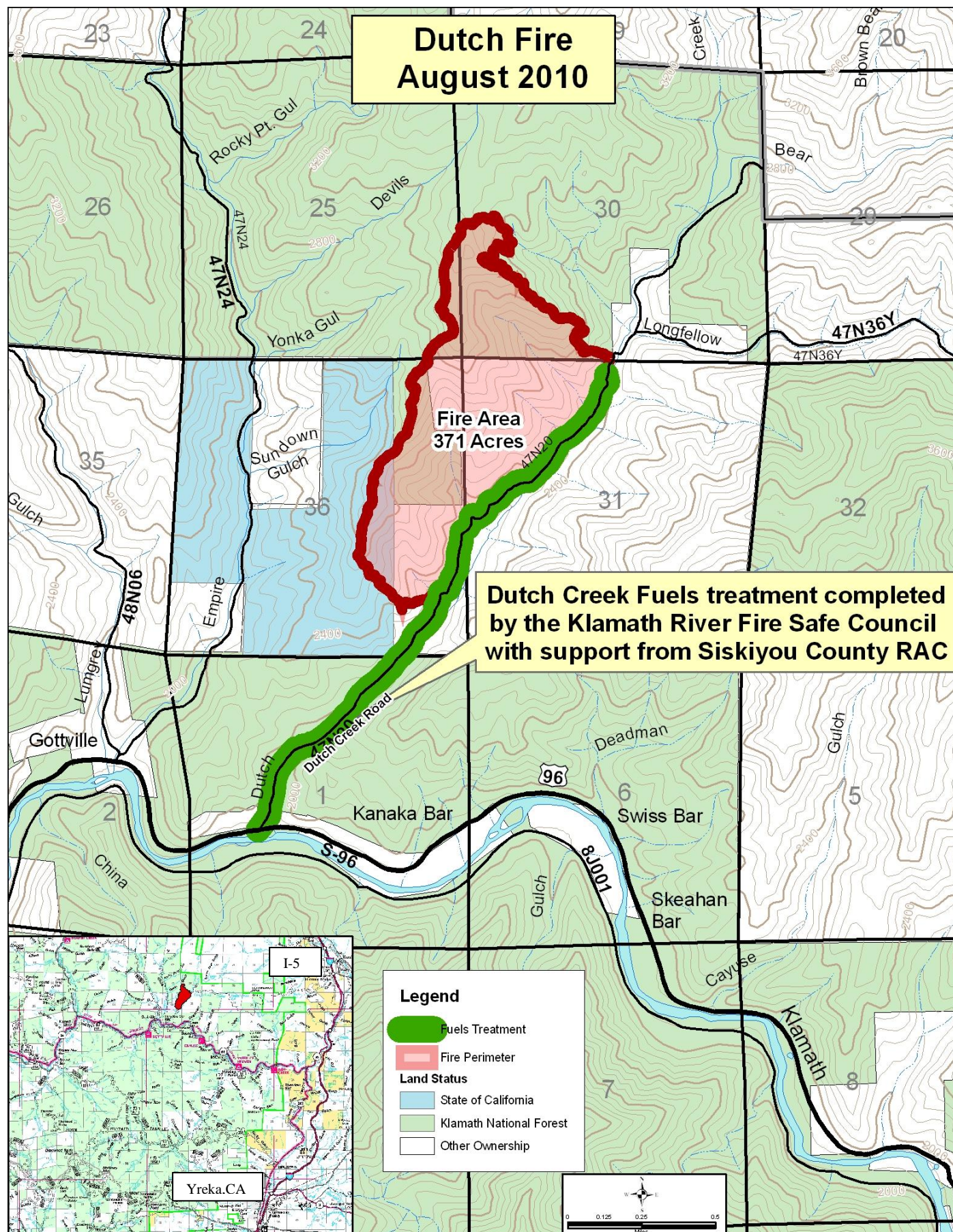
Dutch Creek Fuels Reduction Project Performs as Designed

From July 31, when the Dutch Creek Fire started, until August 8th, when it was finally controlled, neighbors of the Dutch Creek community were lucky that no structures were lost and nobody was injured during a very rapidly moving wildland fire. That luck was in large part due to the advance planning and implementation of the Dutch Creek Fuels Reduction Project completed in 2006. The human-caused fire started directly behind one residence and quickly burned uphill in an untreated, overly dense stand of brush, grass and trees. By August 8th, the fire burned 371 acres of National Forest, State of California, and Private lands costing over 3 million dollars to finally suppress.

As alarming as those facts are, it could have been a very different outcome. Life and property are always top priorities to protect during a wildland fire and had it not been for the foresight and planning of that community, one could only imagine what could have been lost. The Dutch Creek Fuels Reduction Project was conducted in two phases and was coordinated by the Klamath River Fire Safe Council with financial support from the USDA Forest Service utilizing Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Funds. Public Law 106-393 created the national RAC program and the local Siskiyou County RAC became a mechanism for local community collaboration with federal land managers in recommending projects to be conducted on federal lands or that will benefit resources on federal lands. A total of \$78,550 was spent on the Dutch Creek Fuels Reduction project, which was a mix of federal dollars and in-kind contributing labor funds from the Klamath River Fire Safe Council.

Fire managers attribute minimizing the amount of acres burnt to the successful fuels treatment project completed earlier. The acres and values lost would have certainly been greater if the firefighters did not have a viable road at the bottom of the canyon to anchor their containment lines against. The fuels (or vegetation) along the road were significantly reduced by the project designed to make this neighborhood more defensible during a wildland fire. The \$78,550 price for the fuels reduction project is considered a bargain and a significant cost savings in terms of minimizing the fire size to only 371 acres and capping the suppression cost at three million dollars.

Below, is a vicinity map, the final 371-acre Dutch Creek Fire perimeter, and the fuels treatment project boundary that shows the land ownership in that area.



The following series of photographs show the Dutch Creek Fuels Reduction Project (before and after project completion):



Additional pictures during implementation of the fuels reduction project:





Photos taken directly behind the residences of the Dutch Creek Fire (August 2010)





Fuels treated along road accessing residences. Note the lack of burn severity and vegetative mortality.

